



“TURN THE PAGE”

Obama in State of the Union: Shadow of crisis has passed

President Barack Obama arrives to deliver his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015, in Washington. Applauding are Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio.

Associated Press
Page 3



Elegance is an attitude
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Obama aims to influence debate in State of the Union speech



President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015, in Washington, as House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, listens in the background.

Associated Press

STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama issued a sweeping challenge to Congress and the American people Tuesday night to do more for the poor and middle class and to end the nasty partisan political fight that has characterized his six years in office. The president issued a broadly optimistic report about the country in his nationally televised State of the Union address to Congress, newly dominated by opposition Republicans in both chambers for the first time during his presidency. He spoke of millions of new jobs created, modestly rising wages, a stock market that has soared as the country climbed out of the Great Recession that greeted him when he took office in 2009.

And he called for a "better politics where we appeal to each other's basic decency instead of our basest fears."

Obama said it was time for Americans to "turn the page" on years of economic troubles, terrorism and lengthy wars, using his sixth State of the Union

speech to outline new tax policies that would hit the wealthiest Americans and give breaks to the middle class.

While calling for a new era of comity, Obama outlined an agenda that showed he had no plans to curtail his own plans in favor of Republican priorities. He appealed for "better politics" in Washington and pledged to work with Republicans, even while touting bread-and-butter Democratic economic proposals and vowing to veto Republican efforts to dismantle his signature achievements — in particular his health care reform. "We can't put the security of families at risk by taking away their health insurance or unraveling the new rules on Wall Street or refighting past battles on immigration when we've got a system to fix," Obama said. "And if a bill comes to my desk that tries to do any of these things, I will veto it."

"It's now up to us to choose who we want to be over the next fifteen years, and for decades to come," Obama said.

The 2016 presidential election loomed over Obama's

next-to-last State of the Union address, a speech to Congress and a national television audience that focused on his bid to use tax policy to ease the economic woes of beleaguered low-income Americans and the country's shrinking middle class.

Obama's speech proposed increased tax rates for wealthy Americans with much of the new revenue earmarked for measures to benefit low- and middle-income earners who have seen wages stagnate for years. While he made a bold proposal, tax-averse Republicans are unlikely to act on the president's plan. But Obama used one of his biggest platforms, a speech that was nationally televised to tens of millions

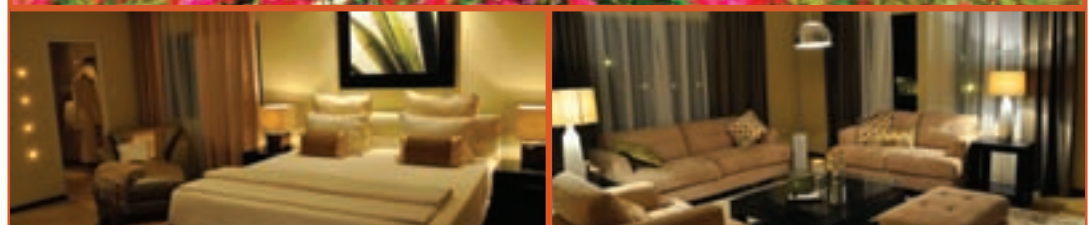
of Americans, to highlight the issue of growing economic inequality, a critical marker for the next presidential campaign.

"Will we accept an economy where only a few of us do spectacularly well?" Obama asked. "Or will we commit ourselves to an economy that generates rising incomes and chances for everyone who makes the effort?"

Answering his own question, Obama said: "So the verdict is clear. Middle-class economics works. Expanding opportunity works. And these policies will continue to work, as long as politics don't get in the way."

The Republicans were quick to respond.

Continued on Next Page

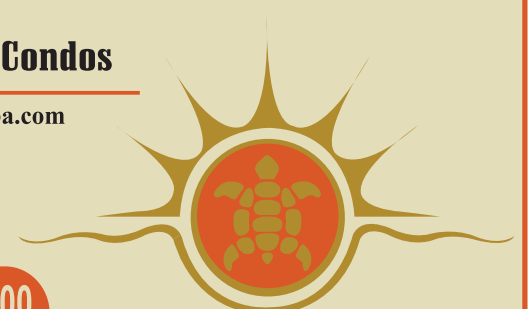


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Obama

Continued from Page 3

"Americans have been hurting, but when we demanded solutions, too often Washington responded with the same stale mindset that led to failed policies like Obamacare," said new Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst, referring to Obama's health care overhaul. Her remarks were released ahead of delivery in the Republican response. "It's a mindset that gave us political talking points, not serious solutions."

The president came out of his party's bruising November election defeat — in which Democrats lost control of the Senate — with a surprising burst of activity and a bump in approval



Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa rehearses her remarks for the Republican response to President Obama's State of the Union address, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

diplomatic relations with Cuba and asked for a new congressional approval and funding for the military campaign against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

"I call on this Congress to show the world that we are united in this mission by passing a resolution to authorize the use of force against ISIL," Obama said, referring to the Islamic State group.

While Republicans are unlikely to pass the new tax proposals, Obama is putting them in the unappealing spot of blocking measures that would offer broad economic benefits to the middle class. Obama has a strong argument in that the U.S. economy is on course for a robust recovery from the Great Recession but most

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U.S. Vice President Joe Biden (L) and House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) wait for the start of President Barack Obama's State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, January 20, 2015.

Associated Press

ratings. He has already vowed to veto seven legislative measures that are coming out of the new Republican-controlled Congress — measures ranging from approving the construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada to the U.S. Gulf coast to an effort to hobble his health care overhaul to budget actions that would undo his executive actions on immigration reform. While the economy was expected to dominate the president's address, he also promoted his recent decision to normalize

of the benefits have not found their way to middle America. Obama looks ready to continue the partisan battle with Republicans that dominated all but the first year of his presidency.

Regardless of the reticence of congressional Republicans to put a bigger tax bite on the wealthy, potential Republican presidential candidates Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney already are talking openly about income inequality and the need to give lower-earning Americans more opportunities. □

New Jersey's Gov. Chris Christie heading to London in February

JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie will travel to London early next month for a trade mission that will double as another opportunity to bolster his foreign policy credentials ahead of a potential run for president.

The three-day trip to Britain, beginning February 1, will be the popular Republican's third foreign trip in recent months and his first outside of North America during his second term.

The full schedule for Christie's London trip, including whether he will meet with Prime Minister David Cameron, is still being finalized, but he will not meet with the Queen or Prince Harry, who traveled to New Jersey and toured two shore communities devastated by Superstorm Sandy in 2013.

"This is an opportunity to strengthen economic and cultural ties between the United Kingdom and New Jersey while pursuing real opportunities in the life sciences and finance sectors," Christie's communications chief Maria Comella said in a statement.

Comella said the trip will have a heavy industry component, focusing on the connections between New Jersey and the United Kingdom, especially in the areas of finance and life sciences. The trip will likely include a series of meetings with London-based CEOs, as well as a potential visit to Cambridge, home of the world-famous university. There will also be a cultural aspect, with Christie potentially catching a soccer match.

Like other recent Christie travel, the trip is being sponsored by Choose New Jersey, a state economic development group.

A governor with little foreign policy experience, Christie has spent recent months studying foreign affairs in late-night prep sessions. He also traveled to Mexico in September and Canada in December, where he stressed the benefits of deepening ties with America's North American neighbors.

His trip to Britain suggests Christie is broadening his focus and gives him another chance to build relationships with world leaders and gain insight into foreign issues.

"I think it is smart for any governor who is potentially seeking the Republican nomination to have made a few trips overseas to familiar themselves with our allies and to start to get a grounding in foreign policy," said Steve Duprey, a Republican National Committeeman from New Hampshire and former senior adviser to John McCain, who described the London trip as a natural next step for Christie after crossing this country's northern and southern borders.

New Jersey exported \$2.2 billion worth of goods to the United Kingdom in 2013, according to the office of Danny Lopez, the British Consul General in New York, who has been helping to plan the trip.

Christie is among the many potential 2016 contenders spending time overseas at this nascent stage of the presidential campaign. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal spent last week on a 10-day economic development mission to Germany, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Democrat Hillary Clinton, the early Democratic front-runner if she decides to run, is heading to Canada this week. □



As people cheer, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie repeats what he said, that he will be back next year, as he refers to his presidential aspirations, while he delivers his State Of The State address in the State House Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, in Trenton, N.J.

Associated Press

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Weakness of Yemen's govt . undermines U.S. terror fight

KEN DILANIAN

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The violent push Tuesday by Houthi rebels against the American-backed government in Yemen is undermining military and intelligence operations against al-Qaida's Yemen-based affiliate, which made its reach felt in this month's deadly Paris attacks, U.S. officials say.

President Barack Obama cited Yemen as a terrorism success story in a September speech outlining his strategy against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, which involves targeted U.S. strikes on militants with the cooperation of a friendly ground force. Obama called it an approach "that we have successfully pursued in Yemen and Somalia for years."

But 10 days after the president uttered those words, the Iran-backed Houthi militia swept into Yemen's capital, Sanaa, seizing a share of power. On Tuesday, those same rebels seized the presidential palace and shelled the president's residence, leading Yemeni officials to warn of a coup.

"The government is hanging by a thread," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the ranking Democrat on the House intelligence committee. "This has really scrambled our counterterrorism strategy there and it gives al-Qaida a great new opportunity." While U.S. officials say the Houthis haven't taken total control, they acknowledge that the government run by their ally, President Abdu



Houthi Shiite Yemeni gather while guarding a street leading to the presidential palace in Sanaa, Yemen, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

Rabbu Mansour Hadi, is more focused now on preserving its power than on running operations against al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. The U.S. considers AQAP the most deadly terrorist threat because of its focus on attacking Western aviation. Two U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to be quoted discussing intelligence assessments.

AQAP took credit for the massacre at the Paris office of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, but U.S. officials say they have no evidence the group had command and control of the operation. They believe the older of the two brothers accused of carrying out the attack traveled briefly to Yemen in 2011. They remain concerned about AQAP's aspirations to attack American avia-

tion with bombs that can't be detected by current screening methods.

AQAP successfully placed three bombs on American-bound airplanes in recent years, but none were detonated. A 2009 attempt to down a passenger jet over Detroit in 2009 went awry, and two printer bombs on cargo planes in 2010 were detected in time. U.S. officials believe the Khorasan Group in Syria is working with AQAP in a plot to smuggle bombs on airplanes in personal electronic devices, and they say air strikes against the group have not ended the threat.

The U.S. embassy in Yemen has long been operating on reduced American staff, but there are an estimated 800 State Department personnel, American citizens and designated foreign nationals in Yemen,

plus several dozen Marines guarding the embassy and an unspecified number of special operations forces and CIA officers.

U.S. officials are concerned

Associated Press

Boy, 13, builds Braille printer with Legos, starts company

TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, California (AP) — In Silicon Valley, it's never too early to become an entrepreneur. Just ask 13-year-old Shubham Banerjee.

The California eighth-grader has launched a company to develop low-cost machines to print Braille, the tactile writing system for the visually impaired. Tech giant Intel Corp. recently invested in his start-up, Braigo Labs.

that the ascendancy of the Shiite Houthis could fuel support for al-Qaida, a Sunni movement that has links to some of Yemen's tribes. "The sectarian dynamic is likely to become far more problematic, and we learned in Iraq, that's a recipe for disaster," Schiff said. For several years, the CIA and the military's Joint Special Operations Command have run parallel targeted killing programs in Yemen. There were 23 U.S. drone strikes in Yemen last year and 23 the year before, according to Long War Journal, which tracks the strikes based on local media reports. U.S. special operations forces attempted a hostage rescue in Yemen in April.

The U.S. military also has trained elite counterterrorism units of Yemen's military that have battled al-Qaida. □

Shubham built a Braille printer with a Lego robotics kit as a school science fair project last year after he asked his parents a simple question: How do blind people read? "Google it," they told him.

Shubham then did some online research and was shocked to learn that Braille printers, also called embossers, cost at least \$2,000 — too expensive for most blind readers, especially in developing countries. □



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Police: Doctor shot inside hospital, gunman killed himself

PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) - A man shot a doctor inside a leading Boston hospital Tuesday, critically wounding the physician before killing himself. Authorities said Stephen Pasceri, 55, entered Brigham and Women's Hospital which is affiliated with Harvard Medical School sometime before 11 a.m. and specifically requested the doctor, who police declined to name because he is a victim.

Pasceri, of Millbury, shot the doctor twice just outside an examination room on the second floor of the Carl J. and Ruth Shapiro Cardiovascular Center; he then turned the gun on himself, police said.

Boston Police Commissioner William Evans said officers conducting a room-by-room search found the gunman dead in an exam room with the weapon. The doctor, meanwhile, suf-

fered life-threatening injuries.

The hospital said the doctor was in surgery as of Tuesday evening. It declined to release his name, at the request of his family.

Police said Pasceri wasn't a patient of the doctor's and they didn't specify a motive for the shootings.

"We're in the process of talking to witnesses, but it's leading us to believe there was something in the past that upset this guy, that made him go in and look for this particular doctor," Evans said earlier in the day. Police and hospital officials commended the fast response by police and hospital staff, who they said had been trained to respond to an "active shooter" situation.

Evans said police were on the scene within seconds after getting the first calls of shots fired and had the area secured within 15 minutes.



Medical personnel walk past law enforcement officials, right, as they depart the Shapiro building at Brigham and Women's Hospital, in Boston, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015. A person was critically shot at the hospital Tuesday and a suspect was in custody, Boston police said.

Betsy Nabel, the hospital's president, said Brigham and Women's will evaluate its safety protocols. She said there have been no discus-

sions about installing metal detectors, which none of the city's hospitals have. Tuesday's shooting prompted a temporary lockdown

at the Shapiro center. Hospital staff were asked to remain in place and the building did not accept new patients.

Officials: 1 dead, 1 injured in overpass collapse in Ohio

CINCINNATI (AP) — A construction worker was killed and a truck driver injured when a highway overpass undergoing demolition collapsed in Cincinnati, and traffic through the heart of the city would be disrupted for days, authorities said. Transportation authorities said southbound lanes of Interstate 75 through Cincinnati would be shut down for days after a closed overpass exit ramp collapsed onto the highway Monday night.

Workers were removing the ramp that had recently been replaced by a new one when it pancaked down on top of southbound lanes north of the

Ohio River and downtown Cincinnati.

Police Chief Jeff Blackwell said were taking down the old bridge when something went "terribly wrong."

"The big-rig driver is very lucky; in a matter of seconds his fate would have probably been different," Blackwell said.

The driver was taken to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center with minor injuries.

Fire officials said the truck struck the collapsed section as the bridge hit the ground. They said the construction worker was killed in the collapse.

Ohio transportation officials said the interstate will



This photo provided by the Cincinnati Fire and EMS, shows the scene following a highway overpass collapse in Cincinnati, Monday, Jan. 19, 2015.

be closed at least 48 to 72 hours. Authorities have many tons of concrete, steel and other debris to re-

move and must inspect for pavement damage. The Cincinnati Fire Department said the collapse oc-

curred at about 10:30 p.m. (1530 GMT) Monday. The cause is under investigation.

Associated Press.

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Boy, 13, builds Braille printer with Legos, starts company

TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, California
(AP) — In Silicon Valley, it's

never too early to become an entrepreneur. Just ask 13-year-old Shubham Banerjee.

The California eighth-grader has launched a company to develop low-cost machines to print Braille, the tactile writing system for the visually impaired. Tech giant Intel Corp. recently invested in his startup, Braigo Labs.

Shubham built a Braille printer with a Lego robotics kit as a school science fair project last year after he asked his parents a simple question: How do blind people read? "Google it," they told him.

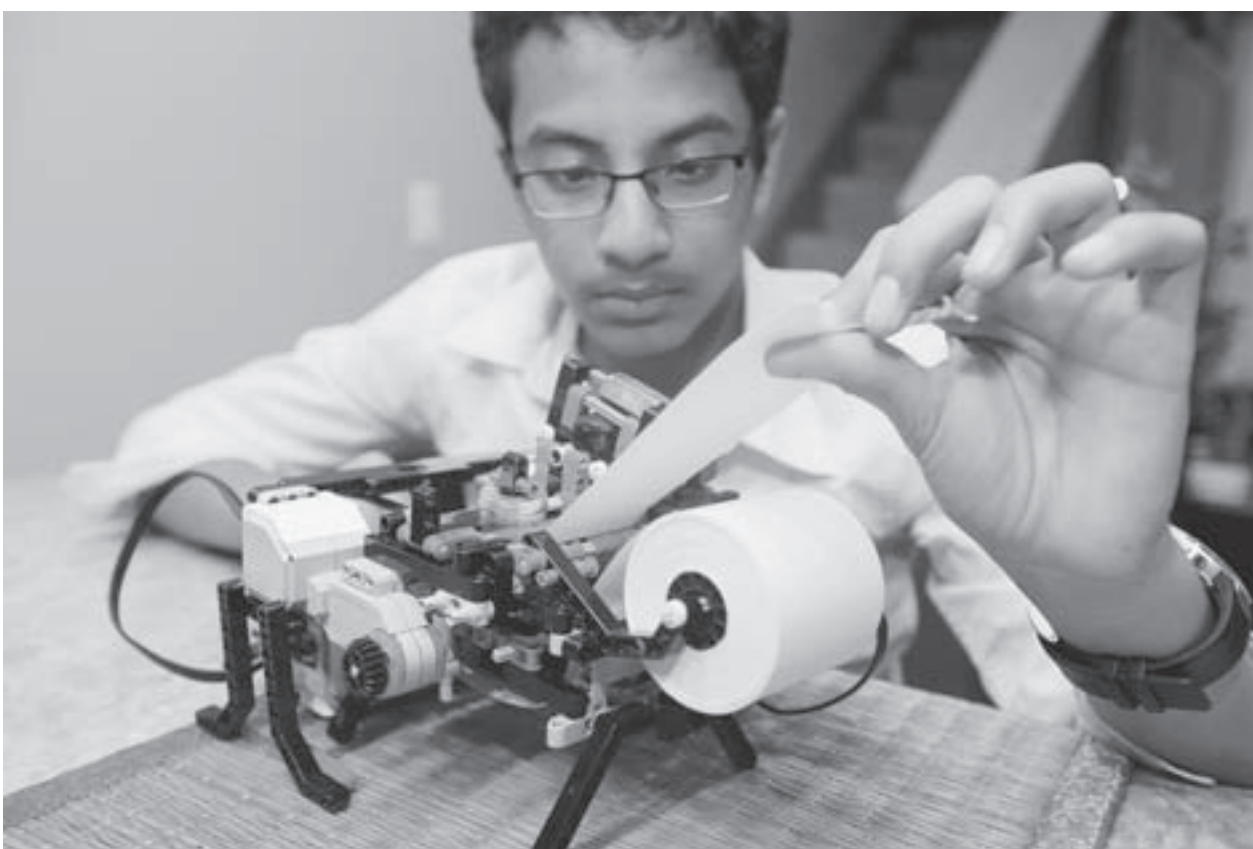
Shubham then did some online research and was shocked to learn that Braille printers, also called embossers, cost at least \$2,000 — too expensive for most blind readers, especially in developing countries.

"I just thought that price should not be there. I know that there is a simpler way to do this," said Shubham, who demonstrated how his printer works at the kitchen table where he spent many late nights building it with a Lego Mindstorms EV3 kit.

Shubham wants to develop a desktop Braille printer that costs around \$350 and weighs just a few pounds, compared with current models that can weigh more than 20 pounds (nine kilograms). The machine could be used to print Braille reading materials on paper, using raised dots instead of ink, from a personal computer or electronic device.

"My end goal would probably be having most of the blind people ... using my Braille printer," said Shubham, who lives in the Silicon Valley suburb of Santa Clara, just minutes away from Intel headquarters. After the "Braigo" — a name that combines Braille and Lego — won numerous awards and enthusiastic support from the blind community, Banerjee started Braigo Labs last summer with an initial \$35,000 investment from his dad.

"We as parents started to get involved more, thinking that he's on to something and this innovation process has to continue," said his father, Niloy Banerjee, an engineer who works for Intel. Shubham used the money to build a more sophisticated version of his Lego-based printer using an off-the-shelf desktop printer and a newly released Intel computer chip. The new model, Braigo 2.0, can translate electronic text into Braille before printing. Intel executives were so impressed with Shubham's printer that in November they invested an undisclosed sum in his startup. Intel officials believe he's the youngest entrepreneur to receive venture capital, money invested in exchange for a financial



Shubham Banerjee works on his lego robotics braille printer at home Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, in Santa Clara, Calif. Banerjee launched a company to develop a low-cost machine to print Braille materials for the blind.

Associated Press

stake in the company.

"He's solving a real problem, and he wants to go off and disrupt an existing industry. And that's really what it's all about," said Edward Ross, director of Inventor Platforms at Intel. Braigo Labs is using the money to hire professional engineers and advisers to help design and build Braille printers based on Shubham's ideas.

The company aims to have a prototype ready for blind organizations to test this summer and have a Braigo printer on the market later this year, Niloy Banerjee said.

"This Braille printer is a great way for people around the world who really don't have many resources at all to learn Braille and to use

it practically," said Henry Wedler, who is blind and working on a doctorate in chemistry at the University of California, Davis. Wedler has become an adviser to Braigo Labs.

An affordable printer would allow the visually impaired readers to print out letters, household labels, shopping lists and short reading materials on paper in Braille, said Lisamaria Martinez, community services director at the San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind, a nonprofit center that serves the visually impaired and prints Braille materials for public agencies.

"I love the fact that a young person is thinking about a community that is often not thought about," said Martinez, who is visu-

ally impaired.

Shubham is too young to be CEO of his own company, so his mother has taken the job, though she admits she wasn't too supportive when he started the project.

"I'm really proud of Shubham. What he has thought, I think most adults should have thought about it," Malini Banerjee said. "And coming out of my 13-year-old, I do feel very proud."





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U.N. says despite progress fight against Ebola is far from won

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Close to 1,000 new cases were recorded in the last three weeks despite recent progress in fighting Ebola in West Africa and "the fight is far from won," the U.N. mission chief said Tuesday.

Ismael Ould Cheikh Ahmed told the U.N. General Assembly that "Ebola continues to be a global threat." But he said "terrifying" and "credible projections" just three months ago that forecast up to 10,000 new cases per week by December never materialized because of the medical, logistical and financial response from countries around the world including almost \$2.5 billion in humanitarian aid.

"The epidemic has turned, and we are now beginning to see an overall decline in the number of new cases," said Ahmed, the new head of the U.N. Mission for Ebola Emergency Response known as UNMEER.

Liberia has recorded the sharpest decline, from averaging over 300 cases a week in August and September to fewer than 10 cases per week today, he said by videoconference from Sierra Leone.

"With continued efforts and vigilance ... the goal of ending Ebola in Liberia is potentially within reach," Ahmed said.

While the number of reported cases in Guinea declined from 114 in the last week of December to less than 30 in the past week, he said many communities in rural areas are openly hostile and blocking health workers from entering. This means "a significant number of cases may go unreported," he said.

Sierra Leone, and especially its western region, is



In this Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2014 file photo, a child stands near a sign advising of a quarantined home in an effort to combat the spread of the Ebola virus in Port Loko, Sierra Leone.

Associated Press

seeing the most new cases but the numbers are starting to decline from more than 330 in the last week of December to less than 140 in the past week thanks to concerted local, national and international efforts, Ahmed said.

While these figures are encouraging, he said "more than 930 new cases of Ebola and more than 800 deaths were recorded in the last three weeks alone," and much remains to be done to get to zero new cases.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the assembly's 193 member states "to sustain the tremendous momentum we have achieved," including by replenishing his depleted trust fund which spent over \$100 million to help fight the dis-

ease.

He said the affected countries are starting to prepare "for post-Ebola life" and he has instructed the U.N. system to begin working, in parallel, on restoring essential services and planning for early recovery.

"We are focusing on access to health care for common illnesses, food security, re-opening schools and ensuring care for orphaned children," Ban said.

U.N. Ebola chief Dr. David

Nabarro said there will be a conference on March 3 in Brussels jointly organized by the U.N. and the European Union to assess the state of the outbreak, the response and recovery.

"We're looking to the end of the outbreak," Nabarro said, "to supporting swift recovery" which also means reviving markets and businesses, and "health systems being built back stronger in the affected countries and beyond."

Nabarro said lessons must be learned from the Ebola epidemic to "understand whether this outbreak could have been responded to quicker with less cost and less suffering."

The World Health Organization's executive board is holding a special session on Jan. 25 "to start looking at how future global health emergencies can be handled with better efficiency and effectiveness," he said.



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In this Friday, Feb. 28, 2014 file photo, Polish-French film director Roman Polanski holds his best director award during the 39th French Cesar Awards Ceremony in Paris.

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Polish prosecutors sent a request Tuesday to a regional court in Krakow for the extradition of director Roman Polanski, arguing that the director's Polish citizenship would not be a legal obstacle to sending him to the United States.

The request is a procedural step and it does not indicate that Polanski will necessarily be extradited in connection with a 1977 sex crime. The decision will fall first to the court, and then, if it recommends extradition, the case would be taken up by the justice

Polish prosecutors send court Polanski extradition request

minister. Still, it won't be a welcome move for the director since it delays the uncertainty over his case in Poland and leaves open the possibility of an extradition. Many Polish leaders have expressed strong opposition to extraditing the 81-year-old Oscar-winner, who is revered for films that including "The Pianist," "Knife in the Water" and "Chinatown." They argue that he has already been

punished enough for the sex crime. Polanski himself said last week he is confident Poland will not extradite him.

Based on the U.S. request, prosecutors questioned him last week in Krakow, the city of his childhood. He is in Poland to prepare a new film on the Alfred Dreyfus affair, a late-19th-century French spy scandal. Paris-born to Polish Jewish parents, Polanski spent his

childhood and youth in Poland but lives in France. His movements are restricted by an Interpol warrant in effect in 188 countries. He avoids extradition by traveling only between France, Poland and Switzerland. In 1977, Polanski pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl. He served 42 days in jail as part of a plea bargain but fled the United States on the eve of his sentencing the next year.

Bosnian family home flooded 25 times since 2000



Bosnian Ibrena Avdic, 56, stands in floodwaters in her home in the Sarajevo suburb of Osijek, Bosnia, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

Associated Press

AMER COHADZIC
Associated Press
SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — They survived the Balkan war and the 1995 Srebrenica massacre and started a new life in a house in a calm Sarajevo neighborhood. Then another disaster struck. Since 2000, the Bosnian family's home in the suburb of Ilidza has been flooded 25 times. "Every year since 2000, my house is flooded once or twice," unemployed con-

struction worker Almir Secerbegovic said Tuesday as he and his mother were walking around the flooded yard and house trying to decide what to do next. Bosnians have still not recovered from the devastating floods in May, the worst in 120 years. Those floods hit 40 percent of Bosnia, displaced 90,000 people from their homes and left 43,000 homes in need of repair. Heavy rain that has descended on the Bosnian capital in the last couple

of days has again flooded about 140 houses in Ilidza, where many refugees built new homes after the 1992-95 war. The Bosna river, which runs through the suburb, is prone to bursting its banks once or twice a year. Authorities had categorized the land as for agricultural use only, and no building permission can be issued. But people expelled from their homes elsewhere in Bosnia bought the land and in chaotic postwar times built their homes on it without permits and without authorities objecting. Secerbegovic, 39, has repaired the house and replaced the furniture numerous times. Building a new one elsewhere would require funds the Secerbegovics don't have. Rebuilding this one over and over again is already too costly and despite the help from his brother who lives in the U.S., bills are piling up.



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Japan weighs ransom in Islamic State threat to kill hostages

JON GAMBRELL
MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The Islamic State group threatened to kill two Japanese hostages within 72 hours, demanding a \$200 million ransom in a video posted online Tuesday that showed a knife-brandishing masked militant standing over the two kneeling captives.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was traveling in the Middle East, vowed to save the men. But with his military only operating in a self-defense capacity at home, Abe faces a hard choice: openly pay the extremists or ask an ally like the United States to attempt a risky rescue inside Syria.

Tuesday's video, released via militant websites associated with the Islamic State group, mirrored other hostage threats the extremists have made. In it, the captives, 47-year-old Kenji Goto and 42-year-old Haruna Yukawa, were shown in orange jumpsuits with a rocky hill in the background, a black-clad militant standing between them.

The scene resembles others featuring five hostages previously beheaded by the Islamic State group, which controls a third of Iraq and Syria.

Speaking in English with a British accent, the militant demanded \$200 million for the men's release and appeared to link the ransom to a pledge Abe made Saturday of nonmilitary aid to help the government of Iraq and to assist Syrian



This image taken from an online video released by the Islamic State group's al-Furqan media arm on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015, purports to show the group threatening to kill two Japanese hostages that the militants identify as Kenji Goto, left, and Haruna Yukawa, right, unless a \$200 million ransom is paid within 72 hours.

refugees who have fled the Islamic State's brutality.

"To the prime minister of Japan ... you willingly have volunteered to take part in this crusade," said the masked man, who looked and sounded like the militant shown in other filmed beheadings.

"And to the Japanese public: Just as your government has made the foolish decision to pay \$200 million to fight the Islamic State, you now have 72 hours to pressure your government in making a wise decision, by paying the \$200 million to save the lives of your citizens," he said.

"Otherwise, this knife will become your nightmare.

Japanese officials said they would analyze the video to verify its authentic-

ity, though Abe offered no hesitation as he pledged to free the men.

"Their lives are the top priority," the Japanese leader told journalists in Jerusalem as he wrapped up a six-day visit to the Middle East. "Extremism and Islam are completely different things."

Abe and others in his government declined to say whether they would pay a ransom, though Abe dispatched his deputy foreign minister, Yasuhide Nakayama, to Jordan to seek the country's support in resolving the hostage crisis.

Agreeing to the Islamic State group's demands would run contrary to allies like the U.S. and Britain, which have a strict policy of not paying ransoms.

other captives.

Though Abe has said he wants a more-muscular Japanese military, he has ruled out sending troops overseas and Japan's constitution, drafted during the American occupation following World War II, commits the country to pacifism. That would put the onus on partners like the U.S. to attempt any hostage rescue.

In early July, U.S. special forces launched a secret raid into Syria to try to free American hostages held by the Islamic State group, killing several militants, but finding no captives.

The two Japanese hostages said nothing during the video.

Goto is a respected Japanese freelance journalist who went to report on Syria's civil war last year. "I'm in Syria for reporting," Goto wrote in an email to an Associated Press journalist in October, before he was abducted. "I hope I can convey the atmosphere from where I am and share it."

Yukawa, the founder of a private security company, was kidnapped in Syria in August after going there to train with militants, according to a post on a blog he kept.

Nobuo Kimoto, an adviser to Yukawa's company, told Japanese television station NHK that he had worried "something like this could happen sooner or later."

Tuesday's video marks the first time the Islamic State group has publicly demanded cash. □

Associated Press

The State Department had no immediate comment on whether the U.S. was urging Japan not to pay. Secretary of State John Kerry planned to speak later with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on the hostage crisis, spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

In a statement, she said the U.S. "strongly condemns ISIL's threat to murder Japanese citizens," and called for the immediate release of all hostages.

"The United States is fully supportive of Japan in this matter. We stand in solidarity with Japan and are coordinating closely," the statement said.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also called for the immediate release of the Japanese hostages and all



Mexico: DNA tests can't identify possible student remains

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican prosecutors said Tuesday that an Austrian forensics lab has been unable to find any more DNA that could be used by conventional means to identify charred remains that might be those of 42 missing college students, but said they have authorized a final, unconventional effort.

The Attorney General's Office said the University of Innsbruck reported that "excessive heat" damaged the mitochondrial DNA in fragments of teeth and bones, "at least to the point that normal methods cannot be used to successfully analyze them."

Failure to positively identify the remains would be a setback for the government, which has struggled with widespread, often violent protests demanding that the students be returned alive, and with relatives' skepticism about the official belief they are dead.

The University had previously found DNA in the remains that belonged to one of the 43 students who were detained and disappeared in the southern state of Guerrero in September. Prosecutors say the students were turned over to a drug gang that killed them and then incinerated their bodies on a fuel-fed pyre, before crushing the charred remains and them in a river. Authorities sent only 16 sets of remains to Austria, saying the rest were so badly deteriorated there was no chance of identifying them.



In this Dec. 28, 2014 file photo, the shadow of a demonstrator is cast on a wall with graffiti protesting the disappearance of 43 rural college students, in front of the Mexican Attorney General's office, in Mexico City.

Associated Press

The university has offered to use one last technique to identify the remains, but says there is a risk the testing may destroy the samples without obtaining any useful information.

That technique is known as massively parallel sequencing, which uses many computers in coordination to perform a task.

The university said it expected the testing to take another three months, but could not give an exact date for results.

"The main risk is that the DNA extracted may be de-

stroyed "without yielding any usable results, prosecutors cited the university as saying.

Prosecutors said, however, they had authorized the new round of testing.

Vidulfo Rosales, a lawyer representing families of the missing teachers college students, said prosecutors should have consulted the families of the missing students before making that decision.

"If these tests are done on the bone fragments, there could be practically nothing left," Rosales told local

media.

"This is going to have an impact on the parents' belief system. ... In rural tradition, mourning is highly symbolic, highly important."

The students went missing Sept. 26 after confrontations with police in the Guerrero state city of Iguala in which three students and three bystanders were killed. Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam has said they were attacked by police on orders of Iguala's then mayor, Jose Luis Abarca, who has since been

detained after going into hiding.

The police and Abarca allegedly had ties to the Guerreros Unidos drug gang. Police allegedly turned the students over to Guerreros Unidos gunmen, who took them to a local dump, killed them and stacked their bodies on a pyre and used diesel, wood and old tires to burn them.

Authorities are holding more than 70 people in the case, which also forced the governor of Guerrero to resign.



Innovation and imagination in dining at Kitchen Table by White



Island visitors and local gourmands have been raving about the unique, unforgettable meals they have been enjoying at Kitchen Table by White, with inventive Chef Urvin Croes at the helm. This native Aruban son is a product of the island's excellent culinary institute, and perfected his art while attending school in Holland and apprenticing at the famous Michelin star restaurant Brasserie Karel V in Utrecht.

Chef Urvin brought his culinary artistry back to his home island to open the very successful White Modern Cuisine restaurant in Palm Beach. He realized his dream of delivering a very special, intimate dining experience when he partnered with Blue Residence at the south end of Palm Beach, to open his cozy eatery Kitchen Table by White, last summer.

His vision was a special place that satis-

fies all the senses, with a menu inspired by the freshest elements of Aruban and regional cuisine. The prix fixe 8-course menu changes monthly. They ushered in 2015 with a selection of dishes based on Chef Urvin revelatory attendance at one of the most famous gourmet food festivals in the world, the annual Mistura, hosted by the Peruvian Gastronomy Association (Apega)

"I was delighted by their philosophy towards haute cuisine," he

explains. "The emphasis is on fresh, locally grown ingredients, which we are emulating at Kitchen Table. With each menu we offer a selection of the best and freshest from the Caribbean Sea, along with a diverse selection of poultry, pork, lamb and/or beef. I always imagined that Peruvian cuisine, the home of ceviche, was always about seafood, but I discovered they adore pork, and deploy it with remarkable variation."

The Kitchen Table menu for January features a 5 times tomatoes scallop starter, a fish dish, followed by a poultry/vegetarian dish, pork course and a lamb finale, which is prepared three different ways. Chef Urvin is particularly proud of the fish dish they have dubbed "The Beach," consisting of cutlets of cobia fish, also referred to as "black salmon," garnished with sauces, avocado and fresh local greenery to resemble waves caressing a shore filled with palm trees. It



is almost too beautiful to eat!

However, patrons will not want to miss a morsel of a dinner that is a feast for all the senses. Watching the staff prepare these stunning dishes is a treat for food fanatics and layman alike. The walls of the restaurant are a gallery for original works by local artists, and mellow, live music accompanies the meal. Wine Steward Carlito is on hand to provide his picks for per-

fect wine pairing to enhance each course.

On February 1 the menu will change to a Carnival theme, with bright colors and explosive flavors, in keeping with this lively period on Aruba.

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Grand Opening of Sidebar Bistro a Fabulous Affair!



- Located in the Renaissance Market place, across from the Ocean Suites in downtown Oranjestad.

ORANJESTAD - Sidebar is unique in a trendy, sassy and sexy way, it is ready to welcome young and old! Sidebar is the place that serves the best burgers on the island and even has vegetarian food. Dutch owner Niels Stooter, his manager Kim d'Hont and their team are waiting to

serve you the diner of your dreams!

Common ground and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonderful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere.

Side Bar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on

the amazing porch and enjoy! The grand opening was a busy event where the friendly staff welcomed all invited guests with champagne and a smile. One of the guests was overheard remarking: "I was wondering how one could find niche for a new restaurant on Aruba, but I believe Niels has found it with Sidebar. The combination gourmet burger and aged Bourbons is one that we don't have yet on the island. This bistro is going to soar." Others agreed and they added that the food is absolutely terrific; they knew from experience, because Sidebar has already been open for two weeks, ironing out any glitches before its Grand Opening. Live music was provided by "Joyride" and till late at night the crowd danced away on popular songs played by the band. □



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TripAdvisor - January 5th, 2015

Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste— try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER

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fell in love and have been cherishing it ever since. John & Gerry exchanged vows of love and togetherness just as the sun gently set into the beautiful Caribbean Sea. Rev. John Wardlaw officiated the intimate ceremony in front of family and friends. The witnesses teared up with joy to their eternal exchange of marriage vows.

After the intimate ceremony, the Barbaro's walked off into the sunset along the water's edge and later joined their guests for a toast and dinner party. Congratulations to John & Gerry with your Golden Wedding Anniversary and Thank You for celebrating your love on Aruba. See you again next year from Aruba Today ☐





Super Comeback

How the NFC was won

Page 19

Seattle Seahawks' Byron Maxwell (41) celebrates his interception during the first half of the NFL football NFC Championship game against the Green Bay Packers Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015, in Seattle. Associated Press

Novak Djokovic wins 1st-round match at Australian Open

Novak Djokovic of Serbia makes backhand return to Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015. Associated Press



Australian Open Wrapup: Page 18

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Serena Williams of the U.S. celebrates a point won against Alison Van Uytvanck of Belgium during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015. Associated Press

No worries for Djokovic, Williams in 1st round at Melbourne

JOHN PYE
AP Sports Writer
MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— As a first-time dad with a baby at home, Novak Djokovic could see merits in the tale of Serena Williams' mid-match espresso that has been brewing in the lead-up to the Australian Open.

Hey, he reckons, why not open up the menu?

The No. 1 seeds in the men's and women's draws both had straight-set wins in their first-round matches on Tuesday. Djokovic shrugged off the effects of a cold to beat No. 116-ranked Aljaz Bedene 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in his first Grand Slam match as a father, and Williams beat No. 106-ranked Alison Van Uytvanck 6-0, 6-4.

Williams, with five Australian titles in her collection of 18 majors, didn't need anything to perk her up as

she raced through the first set in 21 minutes. It was a vastly different story when she arrived in Australia, jet-lagged, this month to start her preparations for the season's first major, and asked for a coffee during a Hopman Cup match in Perth.

She checked with the chair umpire and tournament referee first, because she didn't know if she could order a brew. The coffee was served, and Williams rallied for a win.

"Judging by what she did, it opens up a new chapter of rules I guess on the tennis court," Djokovic said. "Maybe we need to explore more. Some people can't live without coffee in the morning, it keeps them going. I guess that helped her in that match."

Djokovic has left his wife and baby son — Stefan, who was born in October — at home as he bids for a fifth title at Melbourne Park. He was sick on the weekend, and missed some practices.

"It hasn't been an ideal couple of weeks in terms of health and preparation," he said. "But I fought my way through. Now it's behind me."

Djokovic won the first of his Australian Open titles in 2008, then three in a row from 2011. But his 25-match winning streak at Melbourne Park ended in a quarterfinal loss last year to eventual champion Stan Wawrinka.

That led to a breakout year for Wawrinka that included his first major, a rise to No. 3 in the rankings, and a Davis Cup title with Switzerland. Seeded fourth, he began the defense of a major for the first time with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 win over No. 100-ranked

Marsel Ilhan.

"It's great, bringing me a lot of memories from last year," Wawrinka said of his return. "It was great to come back here feeling happy, happy with my game."

U.S. Open finalist Kei Nishikori and Wimbledon semifinalist Milos Raonic are part of the next generation of serious major contenders, and both opened their campaigns well.

No. 5 Kei Nishikori beat Nicolas Almagro 6-4, 7-6 (1), 6-2, and No. 8 Raonic fired 30 aces in a 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3), 6-3 win over Illya Marchenko. No. 9 David Ferrer, a quarterfinalist or better at the last four Australian Opens, also advanced.

The 33-year-old Lleyton Hewitt started his 19th consecutive Australian Open with a four-set win in a night match, while Vasek Pospisil beat Sam Querrey 6-3, 6-7 (5), 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, and No. 17 Gael Monfils rallied from two sets down, and from a break down in the fifth, to beat fellow Frenchman Lucas Pouille 6-7 (3), 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4.

Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova and No. 6 Agnieszka Radwanska advanced, along with 2014 Australian finalist Dominika Cibulkova, two-time champion Victoria Azarenka, and No. 18 Venus Williams. No. 12 Flavia Pennetta, No. 13 Andrea Petkovic and No. 15 Jelena Jankovic were all eliminated.

Azarenka, coming back from a foot injury, beat Sloane Stephens 6-3, 6-2 — her third win in three years over the American at the Australian Open — and will next have to play U.S. Open finalist Caroline Wozniacki. □

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Seattle's comeback still hard for everyone to fathom

TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Washington (AP)

— A day later, it was still hard to fathom how the Seattle Seahawks are headed for their second straight Super Bowl.

Even for those directly involved in Seattle's stunning comeback to win the NFC title.

"A little bit," said wide receiver Jermaine Kearse, who caught the winning 35-yard touchdown in overtime of Seattle's 28-22 win over Green Bay.

"But the type of guys that we have in our locker room is a bunch of different stories of different paths of how people got to where they got.

"You think about all the undrafted guys, you think about the guys that were drafted in the late rounds and rose to the occasion. I feel like our team story is full of adversity and pushing through it and that's what showed."

Just how the Seahawks rallied to stun the Packers was still being comprehended on Monday while Seattle began preparations for its chance at a second straight championship facing New England.

Seattle is keeping the same schedule as last year with three days of practice this week before heading to Arizona on Sunday.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll intends on having most of the game plan in place before the Seahawks leave.

"We do have to get a lot done. This is a very heightened time for us. This is not sit back and take a couple of days. We're going after it," Carroll said. "Wednesday, Thursday, Friday we're game planning and we'll

have the game plan in before we leave. That's an old Bill Walsh way.

"That's the way we've always done the bowl games and stuff since we've been doing it. It's a really good way for the coaches and players to focus before the distractions that naturally come up when you get on the road."

Seattle still expects both safety Earl Thomas and cornerback Richard Sherman to be available to play in two weeks even though Carroll did not have results of MRIs on Monday. Thomas separated his shoulder in the first half, but returned before halftime and played with a brace.

Sherman injured his left elbow when his arm was sandwiched between teammate Kam Chancellor and Green Bay's James Starks on the first play of the fourth quarter. Sherman played the rest of the game with his arm pinned against his chest, but while it was obvious Sherman was limited the Packers rarely challenged him.

Rodgers threw at Sherman only once in the fourth quarter.

"Both those guys were in dire straits could they play. They didn't flinch, not for a second," Carroll said. "When they played, they played their hearts out.

"The courage and the toughness and standing up for who they are and what they mean to this team couldn't have been more evident and the willingness to throw their body out there again and try to finish this game and would not allow it to be any other way. It was so impressive. It really was and there were a lot of guys who do that

but it was just really symbolic."

Seattle's improbable comeback started when it trailed 19-7 after Russell Wilson threw his fourth interception of the game with about five minutes remaining.

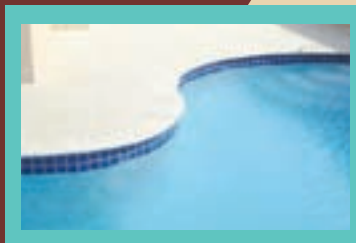
But the interception started the chain of events that helped Seattle pull off its rally, beginning with Morgan Burnett's decision to slide down in the open field rather than trying to return the pick as far as possible. Seattle was able to force Green Bay into a three-and-out with the Seahawks using only two of their timeouts and just 1:12 elapsing off the clock.



Seattle Seahawks' Jermaine Kearse catches the game-winning touchdown pass in front of Green Bay Packers' Tramon Williams during overtime of the NFL football NFC Championship game Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015, in Seattle. The Seahawks won 28-22 to advance to Super Bowl XLIX.

Associated Press

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Kulemin, Islanders bust out again in 7-4 win

The Associated Press
UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Nikolay Kulemin had two goals and an assist as the New York Islanders reclaimed first place in the Eastern Conference with a

7-4 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Monday. Following its last game before the All-Star break, New York is assured of being on top of the Metropolitan Division when it resumes

play next week. The Islanders, 15-2 against divisional foes, are off until they host the New York Rangers next Tuesday. The Islanders are 16-4 overall at home. Michael Grabner, John Ta-

vares and Nick Leddy each had a goal and an assist. Grabner gave the Islanders the lead on their first shot, and Kulemin made it 3-0 with a short-handed tally on New York's first shot of the second period. Kulemin also scored in between, and Josh Bailey and Tavares found the net in the Islanders' three-goal middle

Horvat scored, and Ryan Miller stopped 23 shots to lead Vancouver to its third straight win. Brandon Pirri spoiled Miller's bid for a third straight shutout with 2:32 remaining, ending the goalie's career-best scoreless streak at 200:45. Miller, who had blanked Philadelphia and Carolina in his last two starts,



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Carolina Hurricanes' goalie Anton Khudobin makes a save on Toronto Maple Leafs' David Clarkson during second period of an NHL hockey game in Toronto, Monday, Jan. 19, 2015. Carolina Hurricanes' goalie Anton Khudobin makes a save on Toronto Maple Leafs' David Clarkson during second period of an NHL hockey game in Toronto, Monday, Jan. 19, 2015.

Associated Press



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FLAMES 2, KINGS 1, OT
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dennis Wideman scored 4:08 into overtime as Calgary rallied for its fourth straight victory. Sean Monahan tied it with 6:05 left in regulation for the Flames, who are unbeaten on their five-game Pacific Division road trip. Joni Orto stopped 33 shots in his fourth straight win as Calgary moved past Los Angeles into the final playoff spot in the Western Conference with the victory.

Matt Greene scored midway through the third period and Jonathan Quick made 22 saves for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who wrapped up their seven-game homestand with a dismal 1-2-4 record and dropped out of the playoff picture. Wideman's goal wasn't confirmed until video review confirmed his shot had ricocheted off the camera inside the net.

CANUCKS 2, PANTHERS 1
SUNRISE, Florida (AP) — Radim Vrbata and Bo

topped his previous best scoreless streak of 161:35, set in 2010 with Buffalo. Vancouver improved to 3-1 on a five-game road trip. The Panthers have lost a season-worst four straight. Vrbata put Vancouver ahead at 3:25 of the first period and Horvat doubled the lead at 8:03.

BLUES 3, AVALANCHE 1
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jaden Schwartz had a goal and assist as St. Louis' defense stifled Colorado. Brian Elliott made 17 saves, T.J. Oshie also scored and defenseman Carl Gunnarsson got his second goal of the season for the Blues. St. Louis has scored in a season-best eight consecutive games, going 7-0-1 in that stretch. Alexander Steen had two assists, giving him 18 points during a 10-game points streak. Ken Hitchcock won his 153rd game with St. Louis, tied with Brian Sutter for second on the franchise list.

The Blues have won eight of nine at home against Colorado.

Hawks win 13th in row; Scott, Millsap each get 20



Atlanta Hawks' Mike Scott (32) shoots a layup around Detroit Pistons' Anthony Tolliver (43) and Greg Monroe, right, in the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 19, 2015, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Hawks won their 13th straight game, one short of equaling the team record, as Mike Scott and Paul Millsap each scored 20 points Monday in a 93-82 victory over the Detroit Pistons. The Hawks haven't lost since Dec. 26 against Milwaukee.

Scott, a backup, had eight points in the fourth quarter. Al Horford added 14 points, seven assists and six rebounds. The Pistons were trying for their franchise-record eighth straight road win. Greg Monroe led Detroit with 16 points and 20 rebounds. Andre Drummond added 13 points and 18 rebounds, but made only 3 of 12 free throws.

CAVALIERS 108, BULLS 94

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James scored 26 points and J.R. Smith added 20 as Cleveland entered a favorable portion of its schedule with a win over Chicago. Back home after winning two games in Los Angeles to salvage a trip out West, the Cavs had little trouble with the Central Division-leading Bulls. Cleveland opened a 25-point lead in the third quarter and hand-

ed Chicago its fourth loss in five games. Smith made six 3-pointers, Kyrie Irving scored 18 with 12 assists and Kevin Love added 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavs, who have won three straight. Cleveland can improve its record with three more home games this week and nine of its next 12 in Quicken Loans Arena. Jimmy Butler scored 20 points and Derrick Rose had 18 for the Bulls, who played their third game in a row without starting center Joakim Noah (sprained ankle).

Cavs center Timofey Mozgov scored 15 with 15 rebounds in his first home game for Cleveland since being acquired in a Jan. 7 trade from Denver. **KNICKS 99, PELICANS 92** **NEW YORK (AP)** — The Knicks ended their 16-game losing streak, getting 24 points and nine rebounds from Carmelo Anthony to beat the short-handed Pelicans. Jose Calderon made his biggest basket of a difficult first season in New York, a 3-pointer with 32 seconds left that gave the Knicks a four-point lead. That was just enough to help them

hold on for their first victory since Dec. 12 and end the longest single-season skid in franchise history. Langston Galloway added 21 points for the Knicks, who improved the NBA's worst record to 6-36. Tyreke Evans had 23 points and nine rebounds for the Pelicans, who were still without Anthony Davis and Jrue Holiday.

ROCKETS 110, PACERS 98

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden scored a season-high 45 points, including 18 in the third quarter as the Rockets beat the Pacers. It was the 18th 30-point game and fourth with 40 this season for Harden, the NBA's leading scorer. Houston led by 10 at half-time and used a 33-point third quarter, thanks in large part to four 3-pointers from Harden, to push the lead to 20 entering the fourth. C.J. Miles had 23 points to lead the Pacers, who have lost five straight. Harden finished one point shy of his career high. Dwight Howard had 14 points and 17 rebounds for the Rockets.

WIZARDS 111, 76ERS 76

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marcin Gortat scored 20 points, and John Wall had

11 points and 10 assists as the Wizards beat the over-matched 76ers. Washington went on a 20-3 run for a 27-11 lead late in the first quarter and coasted to the win.

Washington coach Randy Wittman removed his starters after three quarters. Seven Wizards scored in double figures. Kevin Seraphin, who played most of his minutes after the game was decided, had 14. Henry Sims scored 13 points

for the Sixers.

TRAIL BLAZERS 98, KINGS 94 **PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)** — Damian Lillard scored 22 points, including the go-ahead basket with 1:20 remaining, as Portland ended a three-game losing streak with a win over Sacramento. Lillard had six points during the final 80 seconds and helped rally the Trail Blazers (31-11) from an 11-point, second-half deficit. Wesley Matthews scored 17 for Portland. □

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Dr. Carlos Viana

In the Caribbean Sea, on the sunny side of the world, sits the ABC islands, Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao. Just twelve degrees latitude south, is the greatest concentration of sunlight on earth, the equator. In latitude, each degree is approximately 69 miles/111 kilometers apart, this means lots of sunshine and ultraviolet (UV) light on our Islands. Sunlight encourages the production of white blood cells to boost the immune system and fight infection. UV rays from the sun act as a natural antiseptic, helping to combat viruses and bacteria. A little UV light eases common skin problems including acne, dermatitis and psoriasis. Most skin complaints are caused by over-sensitivity. The sun's UV rays help to combat this sensitivity. Not seeing sunlight for prolonged periods, like during grey skies of winter can cause Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), where the person can feel "sad" or depressed. The sun even promotes the release of proteins, which makes your body's use of oxygen more effective, helping heart attack patients survive longer. However, you can

have too much of a good thing, so limit your exposure to no more than 15 minutes a day before applying a sun cream, and do not go out in the hottest part of the day, between 11:00am and 2:00pm. If this is not possible, wear protective clothing and sunscreen. Also influenced by the sun is melatonin, a hormone that naturally makes you sleepy. Melatonin levels rise when the sun goes down to help you sleep. Levels then drop, when the sun rises, waking you up. Insomnia and irregular sleep patterns tend to improve in the summer when we are exposed to more sunlight. Are you guilty of staying up late with artificial lighting, or do you work late shifts, thus messing up your body's natural sleep cycle? If melatonin levels are not working correctly, it affects your body's ability to make vitamin D. Vitamin D is called the "sunshine vitamin" because it can be made in the skin from exposure to sunlight. We assume that those of us, who live in sunny climates, have adequate vitamin D production. However, when we make assumptions, we're limiting ourselves to a narrow view of things. Vitamin D is vital both for healthy bones and preventing rickets, a childhood disorder in which bones become soft and prone to fractures and deformity. Another benefit from Vitamin D – it fights viruses naturally. Vitamin D is ac-

The Sunny Side

tually a group of hormones responsible for enhancing absorption of calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphate and zinc. In humans, the most important compounds in this group are vitamin D3 and vitamin D2. In my constant search to stay current and improve the health of my family and patients, I read many studies that said an estimated 1 billion people worldwide, across all ethnicities and age groups have a vitamin D deficiency! This pandemic of vitamin D deficiency has mainly been attributed to lifestyle and environmental factors that reduce exposure to sunlight, which is required for ultraviolet-B (UVB)-induced vitamin D production in the skin. Dark skin absorbs more UVB in the melanin of their skin than light skin does. This means more sun exposure is required to produce the same amount of vitamin D. Wow! Like many people, I thought dark skin would be more effective in producing Vitamin D not less. I decided to test some of my patients' Vitamin D levels, choosing a variety of ages, sex and body types of those only living in Aruba, where we have strong sunlight. When we received the results that both shocked and humbled me; all of us came out vitamin D deficient! The initial test was just a small selection of people. Now I recommend checking not only for Vitamin D, but also Cortisol, which shows

possible deficiency of melatonin levels, to see if melatonin is affecting vitamin D and if supplementation is needed. This is especially important for patients especially in climates where the sun doesn't shine long and strong, but also here on the sunny side. Most oil-rich fish such as salmon, mackerel, and herring contain vitamin D3, but we are not getting sufficient amounts of D2 from our foods anymore with modern farming and altered food conditions. Vitamin D is an independent risk factor for premature aging. Emerging research supports the possible role of vitamin D in prevention of cancer, heart disease, fractures and falls, autoimmune diseases, influenza, type-2 diabetes, and depression. Health care providers have begun to increase their recommendations for vitamin D supplementation to least 1000 IU per day. Personally, I recommend testing your vitamin D status first, then with results, when deficient supplementing with up to 5000 IU of a high quality vitamin D; then testing again after three to six months. Doing this, I have achieved positive results. Get The Point! Making assumptions is natural, but inefficient. By not using all the tools available to be sure what is really happening, the assumption can cost more in the long run. Contact us about testing your vitamin D levels so we can show you how to adjust

your lifestyle and if you need a little "sunshine vitamin" supplementation. Meanwhile, get outside and soak up some sun, or better, join us on one of our beautiful ABC Islands. We're on the sunny side of the "street." CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com "Prescriptions from Paradise" - International Book Award Winner, Alternative Health - ta optenible na Arubana Viana Healing Center, Turlibreria, Gift shops y centro nan di salud di calidad. tambe ta disponibel den forma do print y pa Kindle download pa nos amigo nan pa fo di Aruba nawww.amazon.com Pa anuncio nan acerca di mas evento nan y firmamento di buki check , check corant nan local, radio y television tambe-comoribawww.vianaheal.com y join e discusion-ribanos Facebook pagina: www.facebook.com/prescriptionsfromparadise .

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Yahoo CEO poised to make fateful decision on Alibaba stake

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

**AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**

— Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer is facing her biggest business decision since she left Google two-and-a-half years ago to lead its struggling rival: how to manage Yahoo's most valuable asset, a 15 percent stake in Chinese Internet star Alibaba Group worth nearly \$37 billion.

"This is a defining moment for her," says Eric Jackson, managing partner of hedge fund Ironfire Capital, a long-time Yahoo shareholder. "Marissa has a chance to really boost the stock if she plays her cards right."

Mayer has promised to outline her Alibaba plans on or before Jan. 27, when the company will release its fourth-quarter earnings. Most investors are hoping Mayer will spin off the Alibaba stake to ease Yahoo's tax bill after the company sells those holdings. Mayer also is under pressure to return windfalls from Yahoo's Asian investments to shareholders instead of plowing more money into an acquisition strategy that some think hasn't paid off.

Activist investor Jeffrey Smith has threatened to lead a shareholder rebellion aimed at ousting Mayer if she proposes a plan that doesn't maxi-

mize Yahoo's tax savings or risks squandering money on far-flung acquisitions.

"Such actions would be a clear indication to us that significant leadership change is required at Yahoo," Smith wrote in a Jan. 8 letter to Mayer. Smith controls 7.7 million Yahoo shares — a 0.8 percent stake — through Starboard Value LP. The New York hedge fund last year reshuffled the board of directors at Olive Garden owner Darden Restaurants and in 2012, Smith unsuccessfully tried to shake up AOL Inc. In this go-round, Smith is urging Mayer to merge with AOL as part of Yahoo's spin-off of its Asian investments, and then launch \$1 billion in cost cuts, most likely laying off thousands of workers. Smith isn't keen on Mayer buying anything besides AOL because she has already spent \$1.7 billion on a grab-bag of more than three dozen acquisitions that haven't yet helped lift Yahoo's revenue.

Yahoo declined to comment on Smith's letter or Mayer's plans for the company's investments in Alibaba and Yahoo Japan.

Yahoo bought the Alibaba stake in a deal engineered a decade ago by Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang. Alibaba operates online sites that

account for some 80 percent of Chinese e-commerce and emerged as one of the Internet's hottest companies right around the time Mayer arrived at Yahoo in July 2012 — a bit of fortunate timing that has given her more time than she might otherwise have had to figure out how to revive Yahoo's revenue growth. Before Alibaba completed the biggest IPO in history four months ago, Yahoo shares were the easiest way for investors to buy a piece of the Chinese company. Alibaba's stock has climbed by about 40 percent from its initial public offering price of \$68, a surge that has lifted Yahoo, too. Shares of the Sunnyvale, California, company have more than tripled in the last two-and-a-half years.

Mayer has publicly applauded Yang for the Alibaba coup, but also has taken credit for some of the company's progress. She overhauled Yahoo's apps, acquired more engineering talent and technology to make the company a bigger player in the increasingly important mobile computing market, trimmed its workforce and spent \$7.7 billion buying back stock to help boost earnings per share.

"We've achieved much



In this Tuesday, June 17, 2014, file photo, Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer attends the Cannes Lions 2014, 61st International Advertising Festival in Cannes, France. Associated Press

more than many people realize," Mayer told investors and analysts in October.

Mayer also helped improve Yahoo's relationship with Alibaba after tensions flared between the companies under previous management. The fence-mending enabled Yahoo to negotiate a contract that let the company hold on to its Alibaba stock for a longer period and reap even more gains.

"I don't think Marissa gets enough credit for addressing that Alibaba situation," says S&P Capital IQ analyst Scott Kessler. "Clearly, she has done a better job doing that than her predecessors."

Yahoo, though, still has not snapped out of a financial funk that began around the same time

as the Great Recession in late 2007. Yahoo's quarterly revenue has declined from the previous year in all but two of Mayer's nine quarters as CEO. The only revenue gains have been meager, ranging from 1 percent to 2 percent. Meanwhile, the overall Internet ad market has risen by 14 percent to 18 percent each quarter of Mayer's reign, according to the Interactive Advertising Bureau.

Mayer has repeatedly pleaded for patience, something that Jackson believes is running low among Yahoo shareholders.

"She still has opportunities in front of her, but I have become frustrated with her performance," Jackson says. "It hasn't been as good as it should have been." □

Nintendo to discontinue Club Nintendo rewards program

NEW YORK (AP) — Nintendo is discontinuing its Club Nintendo rewards program and will replace it in the U.S. with a new customer loyalty program at a later date.

Members of Club Nintendo earned "coins" by registering products or completing surveys. They could exchange those coins for downloadable games, posters or character figures.

Japan's Nintendo Co. said Tuesday that Club Nin-

tendo members in the U.S. and Canada can earn additional coins through March's end and redeem them through June's end. New rewards and downloadable games are being added to the program to help members use up their balances.

The ability to make a new Club Nintendo account will end on March 31.

Nintendo's video gaming products include Wii U, Wii, Nintendo 3DS and Nintendo DS. □

Twitter buys ZipDial in bid for users in emerging markets

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter said Tuesday that it plans to buy Indian mobile marketing company ZipDial as it tries to reach new users in developing regions.

The San Francisco company did not disclose financial details or when it expects the deal to close. ZipDial connects brands with consumers in emerging markets where mobile data is expensive and Wi-Fi connections are limited. With ZipDial, consumers bypass data charges. They call a unique phone

number, hang up and ZipDial sends them free texts or voicemails with sports scores, coupons or other content and information.

Calling and hanging up is also a way to follow users of Twitter. A phone number can be assigned to politicians or celebrities, for example, and users automatically receive tweets through texts instead of going to Twitter's website or app. Phone numbers can be printed on billboards, newspaper ads or TV commercials. Founded in 2010,

ZipDial has created campaigns for beverage maker PepsiCo and toy maker Mattel Inc., according to its website.

At the end of June, Twitter had 271 million average monthly users. The company said the acquisition will give people access to its service in Brazil, India, Indonesia and other countries where people are going online for the first time.

Shares of Twitter Inc. rose 72 cents, or 1.9 percent, to \$38.03 in afternoon trading Tuesday. □

Survey: CEOs say U.S. more attractive to investors than China

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)

— Amid growing concerns over the global economy, the United States has overtaken China as the No. 1 investment destination among chief executives around the world, a survey found Tuesday.

That's the first time the U.S. has topped the list since accounting and consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, or PwC, first started asking the question five years ago.

Global investors appear encouraged by the U.S. economy's vital signs at a time when China's growth is slowing and executives are increasingly pessimistic over the global outlook.

"I think you are seeing a real movement to economies that offer some real degree of stability from a business investment point of view, and that's interesting trend from what we've seen in the past," Dennis M. Nally, the firm's chairman, told The Associated Press as the world's business elite headed to the World Economic Forum in the Swiss



The logo of the World Economic Forum is pictured through a window in Davos, Switzerland, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015. Associated Press

resort of Davos.

One of the major reasons why the U.S. economy is considered the most important market for growth in 2015 is the fact that CEOs are more pessimistic about the global economy's prospects than they were a year ago. In its survey, PwC found that 37 percent of executives polled think the outlook will improve

over the next 12 months, down from 44 percent last year. Meanwhile, 17 percent think the outlook will improve, more than double last year's figure.

Nally blamed geopolitical tensions, big movements among currencies and the sharp fall in oil prices, among other factors, for the growing economic gloom.

"With all the things that are going on out there, CEOs are less confident about global growth than they were just 12 months ago," he said.

Earlier Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund downgraded its global growth forecasts for this year and next by 0.3 percentage points each to 3.5 percent and 3.7 per-

cent, respectively. The IMF's downgrades came as China reported that its economic growth slowed to 7.4 percent last year, its weakest expansion since 1990.

The downward drift in sentiment identified by PwC is not uniform around the world. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the conflict that erupted in Ukraine last year, it's CEOs in Central and Eastern Europe that are the most downbeat. Their counterparts in the Asia-Pacific region and the Middle East have a far more rosy outlook.

One country that is clearly feeling the heat is Russia, where optimism has hit an all-time low following a year that's seen the country embroiled in the crisis in Ukraine and hit with sanctions from Western powers in response. Russia has also suffered from the sharp fall in oil prices — its economy is hugely dependent on oil revenues — and seen its currency, the ruble, tank.

PwC's survey was based on 1,322 interviews across 77 countries between Sept. 25 to Dec. 9, 2014. □

Stocks turn higher in afternoon trading

MATTHEW CRAFT

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A late rise in technology stocks helped the U.S. stock market stagger to a tiny gain following a choppy day of trading Tuesday.

A combination of tepid earnings results, falling oil prices and downbeat news kept the market lower for most of the day. Major indexes started higher in the first few minutes of trading but quickly faded, as slipping confidence among homebuilders and another drop in crude pulled housing and energy stocks down. The S&P 500 spent the afternoon slowly recovering, until a late surge in Apple, Netflix and other technology titans helped nudge the index up. "There's just a lot driving trading today," Randy Fred-

erick, managing director of trading and derivatives with the Schwab Center for Financial Research. "I think we're going to see more volatility for a while, not just down but up, too."

The S&P 500 index inched up 3.13 points, or 0.2 percent, to finish at 2,022.55.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 3.66 points, a sliver of a percent, to 17,515.23, and the Nasdaq rose 20.46 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,654.85.

Of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 index, technology companies had the best day, with Apple and Netflix climbing 3 percent.

Frederick said that uncertainty is behind the recent turbulence.

At the moment, there are just too many open questions about oil prices and

the global economy. He pointed to two upcoming events that could swing markets: a meeting of the European Central Bank on Thursday and elections in Greece on Sunday. Many in the markets are betting that the ECB will unveil a new effort to revive that region's flagging economy.

U.S. economic news Tuesday offered little encouragement. A weak signal from the housing market sent builders' stocks down. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo's builder sentiment index slipped a point from the prior month, an indication that they feel slightly less confident in their sales prospects heading into the spring. D.R. Horton dropped 81 cents, or 3 percent, to \$22.95, while PulteGroup lost 77 cents, or



In this Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2014, file photo, a street sign for Wall Street hangs near the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

4 percent, to \$20.80.

The International Monetary Fund cut its forecasts for global growth over the next two years, warning that persistent weakness in most major economies will outweigh any benefit from lower oil prices. It now predicts global growth at 3.5 percent this year and 3.7 percent in 2016.

China's government said that its economy expanded 7.4 percent last year, its

weakest pace in 24 years. The slower growth is partly a result of Beijing's efforts to wean the economy off its reliance on heavy industry and trade. But a range of problems, including a slumping property market and uneven exports, have hampered the shift.

Europe's stock markets ended mixed. France's CAC 40 gained 1.2 percent, while Germany's DAX closed with a gain of 0.1 percent. □

Texas Is Sending You a Present



Gail Collins
© 2015 New York Times News Service
Rick Perry!

The man who has been governor of Texas since pterodactyls roamed the plains took his leave at the state Capitol this week. He is not saying anything for sure about running for president. Mum's the word until springtime. However, he recently told a reporter that if voters want to break from the Obama era, "I am a very clear and compelling individual to support."

Wow, the Republican race is getting to be like one of those crime shows where the detectives have to paste pictures all over the wall so they can keep the suspects straight. So many old friends popping up this month - Mitt Romney and now Rick Perry. The man who drove to Canada with the family dog strapped to the car roof and the man who claims he shot a coyote while jogging. The animal lobby had better get out there and see how Jeb Bush feels about wolf hunting.

Almost everybody has a Rick Perry favorite moment. For 99 percent, it's probably the dreaded "oops" debate when he announced that as president he was going to shutter three federal agencies - and then could only think of two.

And, yeah, that one was pretty good. However, I still cherish a television interview Perry did a few years earlier with Evan Smith of The Texas Tribune in which he defended abstinence-only sex education despite the state's astronomical rates of teenage pregnancy.

"It works," Perry said defiantly and totally erroneously.

"Can you give me a statistic suggesting it works?" asked Smith.

"I'm going to tell you from my own personal life. Abstinence works," Perry replied. Smith was too discreet to press for details, but let's hope it comes up during the campaign.

Perry has been governor of Texas for more than 14 years, an all-time record. In his farewell speech to the state Legislature, he reminded the lawmakers of all they've been through together, including hurricanes, wildfires and the tragic disintegration of the Space Shuttle Columbia over Texas in 2003, although Perry called it "Space Shuttle Challenger," which blew up in 1986.

No mention of his pending felony indictment for abuse of power. Perry tried to force a county district attorney to resign by threatening to veto the money for an office she runs that investigates public corruption. It's a complicated story. First you learn that the D.A. in question had been arrested in a rather spectacular drunken-driving case, and you tilt a little toward Perry. Then you discover that two other county D.A.s were charged with drunken driving during the Perry administration without attracting the wrath of the governor. Then you sort of get distracted by wondering what's going on with Texas district attorneys.

We've got ages to work it out. Perry bragged about the state's economy, which he often refers to as "the Texas Miracle." Really, we have not heard so much about miracles since Our Lady of Fatima. The state's record of job creation is his big calling card to the presidential league, and once he starts harping on it again we're going to wonder: Has Texas been growing so many jobs because Perry cut taxes and regulations? Or is it because Texas happens to be a state with warm weather, lots of space for cheap housing, a huge border with Mexico and massive oil and gas deposits? Is Perry a great leader or just conveniently located? Eventually, someone will repeat the old Ann Richards joke about being born on third base and thinking you hit a triple.

Perry's signature job-building initiative is something called the Texas Enterprise Fund, which aims to persuade out-of-state companies to move to Texas or expand there. One of its beneficiaries, the Texas Institute for Genomic Medicine, got \$50 million in return for creating what Perry said were more than 12,000 jobs. An investigation by The Wall Street Journal revealed the fund folk had been counting every single biotech job created anywhere in the state for the previous six years. Actually the number was more like 10.

But it's great that the governor's ambitions are forcing us to think a lot about Texas, a state that deserves more attention, having been home to only three of the last eight elected chief executives. Not even half! And although lawmakers from Texas currently lead six of the committees in the House of Representatives, that's still under a third.

There's also U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, making all the pre-presidential-campaign stops and offering an option to all of us who are yearning for a vision to the right of Rick Perry. I once threw out the possibility of an entire Republican ticket from the Lone Star State, and many readers desperately wrote to argue that that was unconstitutional. It might be fairer to say that the Constitution isn't crazy about the idea.

We can figure that out down the line. Meanwhile, Perry and Cruz could both be in the presidential debates. Let's see who's better at counting to three. □



Smart Guns Save Lives. So Where Are They?



Nicholas Kristof
© 2015 New York Times News Service
BOULDER, Colo.

Just after Christmas, Veronica Rutledge of Blackfoot, Idaho, took her 2-year-old son to a Wal-Mart store to spend holiday gift cards. As they strolled by the electronics section, according to news reports, the toddler reached into his mom's purse and pulled out a handgun that she legally carried. He pulled the trigger once and killed her. The previous month, a 3-year-old boy in Washington state was shot in the face by a 4-year-old. Earlier, a 2-year-old boy in Pennsylvania shot and killed his 11-year-old sister.

About 20 children and teenagers are shot daily in the United States, according to a study by the journal Pediatrics.

Indeed, guns kill more preschool-age children (about 80 a year) than police officers (about 50), according to the FBI and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This toll is utterly unnecessary, for the technology to make childproof guns goes back more than a century. Beginning in the 1880s, Smith & Wesson (whose gun was used in the Wal-Mart killing) actually sold childproof handguns that required a lever to be depressed

as the trigger was pulled.

"No ordinary child under 8 years of age can possibly discharge it," Smith & Wesson boasted at the time, and it sold half-a-million of these guns, but, today, it no longer offers that childproof option. Doesn't it seem odd that your cell phone can be set up to require a PIN or a fingerprint, but there's no such option for a gun?

Which brings us to Kai Kloefer, a lanky 17-year-old high school senior in Boulder, Colorado. After the cinema shooting in nearby Aurora, Kloefer decided that for a science fair project he would engineer a "smart gun" that could be fired only by an authorized user.

"I started with iris recognition, and that seemed a good idea until you realize that many people firing guns wear sunglasses," Kloefer recalls. "So I moved on to fingerprints."

Kloefer designed a smart handgun that fires only when a finger it recognizes is on the grip. More than 1,000 fingerprints can be authorized per gun, and Kloefer says the sensor is 99.999 percent accurate.

A child can't fire the gun. Neither can a thief - important here in a country in which more than 150,000 guns are stolen annually. Kloefer's design won a grand prize in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Then he won a \$50,000 grant from the Smart Tech Challenges Foundation to refine the technology.

By the time he enters college in the fall (he applied early to Stanford and has been deferred), he hopes to be ready to license the technology to a manufacturer.

There are other approaches to smart guns. The best known, the Armatix iP1, made by a German company and available in the United States through a complicated online procedure, can be fired only if the shooter is wearing a companion wristwatch.

The National Rifle Association seems set against smart guns, ap-

parently fearing that they might become mandatory. One problem has been an unfortunate 2002 New Jersey law stipulating that three years after smart guns are available anywhere in the United States, only smart guns can be sold in the state. The attorney general's office there ruled recently that the Armatix smart gun would not trigger the law, but the provision has still led gun enthusiasts to bully dealers to keep smart guns off the market everywhere in the U.S.

Opponents of smart guns say that they aren't fully reliable. Some, including Kloefer's, will need batteries to be recharged once a year or so. Still, if Veronica Rutledge had had one in her purse in that Idaho Wal-Mart, her son wouldn't have been able to shoot and kill her.

"Smart guns are going to save lives," says Stephen Teret, a gun expert at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "They're not going to save all lives, but why wouldn't we want to make guns as safe a consumer product as possible?"

David Hemenway, a public health expert at Harvard, says that the way forward is for police departments or the military to buy smart guns, creating a market and proving they work.

An interfaith group of religious leaders is also appealing to gun industry leaders, ahead of the huge annual trade show in Las Vegas with 65,000 attendees, to drop opposition to smart guns.

Smart guns aren't a panacea. But when even a 17-year-old kid can come up with a safer gun, why should the gun lobby be so hostile to the option of purchasing one? Something is amiss when we protect our children from toys that they might swallow, but not from firearms. So Veronica Rutledge is dead, and her son will grow up with the knowledge that he killed her - and we all bear some responsibility when we don't even try to reduce the carnage. □

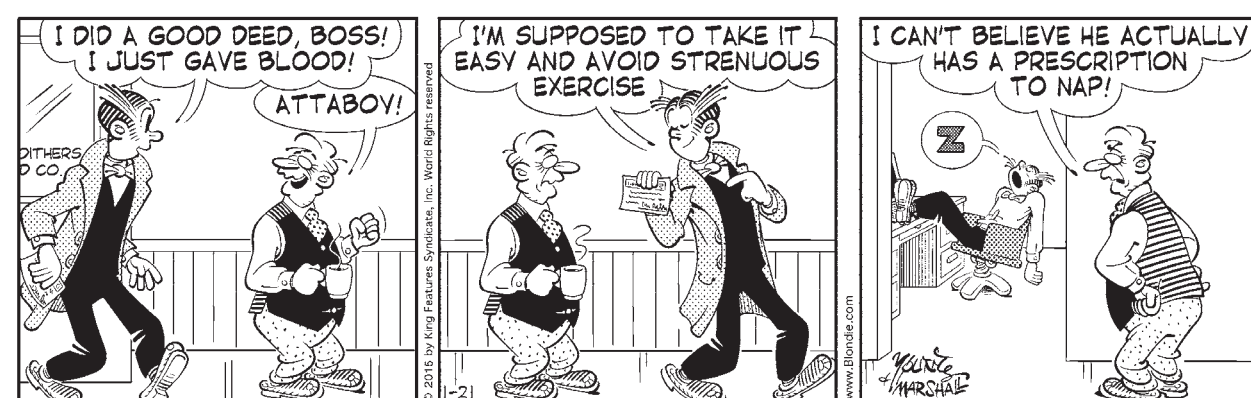
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



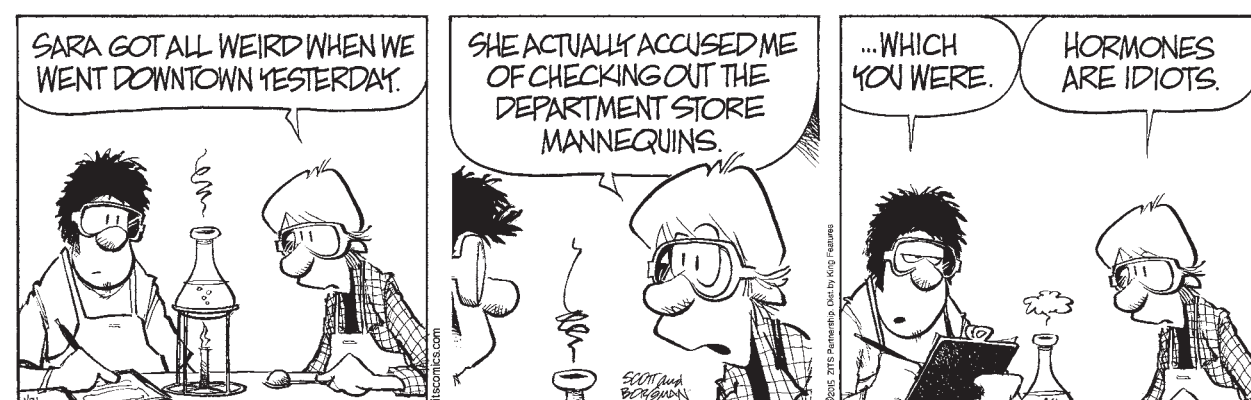
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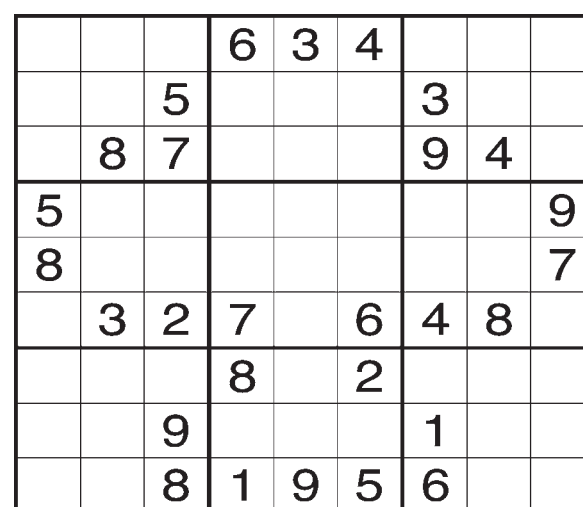
Baby Blues



Zits



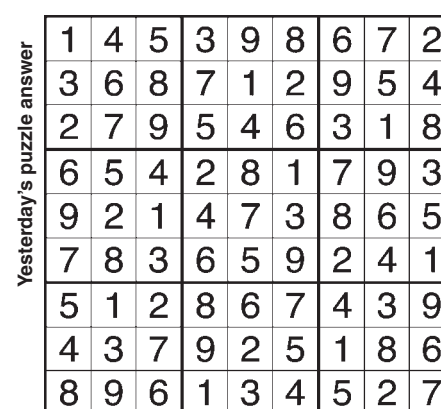
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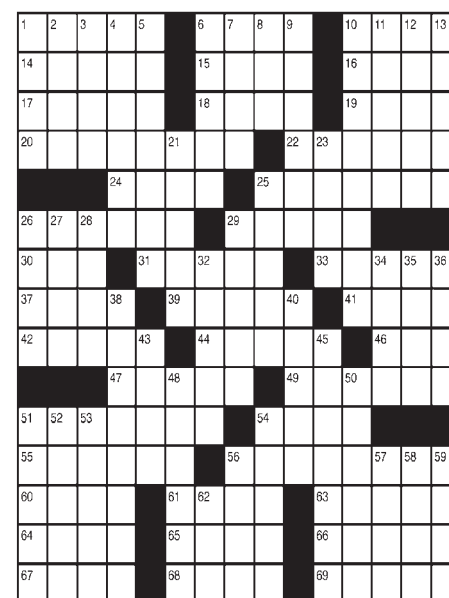
1/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.



ACROSS

- 1 "Penny wise,
 6 Snatch
 10 Quite excited
 14 "Little Orphan
 15 Part of the ear
 16 Remedy
 17 Cake coating
 18 Apiece
 19 Extended
 20 Minister's title
 22 Morphine or
 24 Gull's cousin
 25 Promises of
 26 Attorney
 29 Keep away
 30 ___-Wan
 31 Not under the
 influence



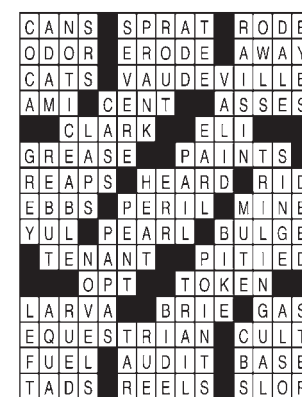
Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/21/15

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| 40 | breaks | 1 | Twosome |
| 41 | Threesome | 2 | A single time |
| 42 | Lively horse | 3 | Stanford or |
| 44 | Bothersome | | Tulane: abbr. |
| | people | 4 | Jimmy Carter's |
| 46 | Hairstyling goo | | age |
| 47 | Deadly snake | 5 | Collegians' goals |
| 49 | "...you shall | 6 | Ford or Close |
| | hear of the | 7 | Hit the ___; go |
| | midnight ride of | 8 | ___, D, E, F...; |
| | Paul ___" | 9 | "Lo and ___!" |
| 51 | ___ out; died | 10 | Car crash |
| | down gradually | 11 | Soviet prison |
| 54 | Usually dry | | camp |
| | streambed | 12 | Give a speech |
| 55 | Worshipped | 13 | Kelly & Wilder |
| 56 | Live together | 21 | Mistake |
| | no longer | 23 | Small dowels |
| 60 | "Que Sera, ___" | 25 | Harbor towns |
| 61 | Facts & figures | 26 | Journals |
| 63 | Leg bone | 27 | As blind as ___ |
| 64 | Air pollution | 28 | Telegram |
| 65 | Dishonest one | 29 | Put off; delay |
| 66 | Vote into office | 32 | 2-footed animal |
| 67 | At ___; relaxed | 34 | Strong desire |
| 68 | Nervous | 35 | Coffin platform |
| 69 | Classroom | 36 | Shoe bottom |
| | furnishings | 38 | Shrink |



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1/21/15

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 40 Purse handle | 53 Bulls, in |
| 43 Urgent | Spain |
| 45 Gave general | 54 Tired |
| anesthesia to | 56 Male deer |
| 48 Sell from a cart | 57 Lincoln's |
| 50 Manly | namesakes |
| 51 Out of style | 58 Tiny bug |
| 52 Swelling due to | 59 Dines |
| water retention | 62 Assistance |

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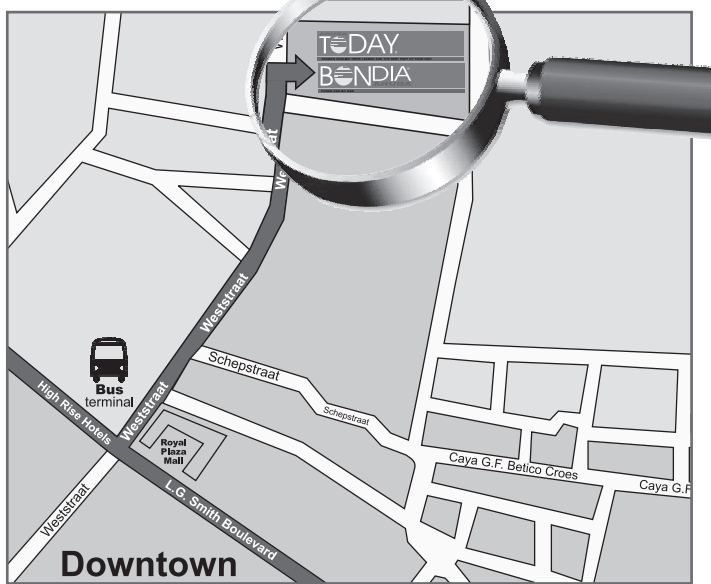
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X-rays unlock secrets of ancient scrolls buried by volcano

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Scientists have succeeded in reading parts of an ancient scroll that was buried in a volcanic eruption almost 2,000 years ago, holding out the promise that the world's oldest surviving library may one day reveal all of its secrets.

The scroll is among hundreds retrieved from the remains of a lavish villa at Herculaneum, which along with Pompeii was one of several Roman towns that were destroyed when Mt. Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79.

Some of the texts from what is called the Villa of the Papyri have been deciphered since they were discovered in the 1750s. But many more remain a mystery to science because they were so badly damaged that unrolling the

papyrus they were written on would have destroyed them completely.

"The papyri were completely covered in blazing-hot volcanic material," said Vito Mocella, a theoretical scientist at the In-

cient times was made from a mixture of charcoal and gum. This makes it indistinguishable from the burned papyrus.

Mocella and his colleagues decided to try a method called X-ray phase con-

X-rays — passes through different substances, in this case papyrus and ink.

Using lab time at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble, France, the researchers found they were able to decipher several letters, proving that the method could be used to read what's hidden inside the scrolls.

"Our goal was to show that the technique is sensitive to the writing," said Mocella. In a further step, the scientists compared the handwriting to that of other texts, allowing them to conclude that it was likely the work of Philodemus, a poet and Epicurean philosopher who died about a century before the volcanic eruption.

The next challenge will be to automate the laborious process of scanning the charred lumps of papyrus and deciphering the texts inside them, so that some 700 further scrolls stored in Naples can be read, Mocella said.

Scholars studying the Herculaneum texts say the new technique, which was detailed in an article published Tuesday in the journal *Nature Communications*, may well mark a breakthrough for their efforts to unlock the ancient philosophical ideas hidden from view for almost two millennia.

"It's a philosophical library of Epicurean texts from a time when this philosophy influenced the most important classical Latin authors, such as Virgil, Horace and Cicero," said Juergen Hammerstaedt, a professor of Greek and Latin at the University of Cologne, Germany, who was not involved in the project.

"There needs to be much work before one can virtually unroll carbonized papyrus because one will have to develop a digital method that will allow us to follow the layers," he said. "But in the 260 years of Herculaneum papyrology it is certainly a remarkable year." □



An ancient scroll, completely covered in blazing-hot volcanic material, is displayed at the Naples' National Library, Italy, Jan. 20, 2015.

Associated Press

stitute of Microelectronics and Microsystems (CNR) in Naples who led the latest project.

Previous attempts to peer inside the scrolls failed to yield any readable texts because the ink used in an-

trast tomography that had previously been used to examine fossils without damaging them.

Phase contrast tomography takes advantage of subtle differences in the way radiation — such as

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211677

Romanian who claimed he invented world's 1st jetpack dies

ALISON MUTLER
Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)

— A Romanian inventor who claimed he beat the Americans to make the world's first jetpack and went on to design and build dozens of vehicles, calling the modern-day car "a disgrace," has died aged 81.

The hospital in the southern city of Ploiesti said Justin Capra died Monday evening. The cause of death was not given but Capra had diabetes.

Propelled by poverty and curiosity, Capra began inventing gadgets in childhood, and graduated as an engineer. He crafted unconventional flying ma-

chines and dozens of prototypes of fuel-efficient vehicles in his lifetime, including in 2011 a single-seater car that did 470 miles to the gallon (about 200 kilometers to the liter), running on a mixture of gasoline and water. He blamed "social, political, and economic reasons" for his belief that it would never be built on a mass scale.

Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta called him "a great Romanian and inventor known throughout the world for his inventions." In 1956, under communism, Capra invented the "flying rucksack," a personal flying machine. In 1962, one was produced in the U.S. by Bell Aircraft Corp. "All that was

different was the color," Capra insisted in an interview.

There were reports that Capra created the jetpack to escape communist Romania, but he said he had a less ambitious aim, in his time as a conscript in the Romanian army. "I wanted to run away from barracks without the colonel seeing me."

A parachutist tried his invention but crashed. Capra was advised by aviation pioneer Henri Coanda to change the fuel, which he did and came up with an improved version. The same parachutist tried this in 1958 and this time it worked better.

However, under commu-

nism, citizens were not allowed to own a flying machine and Capra was unable to patent his invention. Of automobiles, he said: "They are a disgrace. They weigh 1,000 kilograms (half a ton) and carry people who weigh 60 kilograms (130 pounds).... Of 1 liter of fuel, 980 milliliters shifts the car and 20 milliliters is for us." He warned with apparent foresight: "Instead of becoming a means of transporting people, (cars) will become a reason for blocking the traffic," because the number of cars exceeds roads being built. There was no immediate word about funeral plans or survivors. □



In this Sept. 8, 2014, file photo, Julianne Moore attends the premiere for "Still Alice," on Day 5 of the Toronto International Film Festival at the Winter Garden Theatre, in Toronto.

Associated Press

Oscar nominee Julianne Moore to help design Oscar green room

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Julianne Moore isn't just the leading nominee for best actress at this year's Oscars, she's also helping design the backstage green room.

Architectural Digest announced Tuesday that the "Still Alice" star will consult on the room's look and help choose furniture and decor for the celebrity enclave.

The 54-year-old actress says she "knows what it's like to be

backstage on Oscar night" and is thrilled to help decorate the stars-only hangout. The garden of her New York home appeared in a 2012 issue of the magazine.

Moore will collaborate with Los Angeles-based design collective Commune, tapped to create Architectural Digest's annual namesake green room at the Academy Awards. The Oscars will be presented at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood on Feb. 22 and broadcast live on ABC. □

Mick Jagger starts scholarship in honor of L'Wren Scott



NEW YORK (AP) — Mick Jagger has established a scholarship in honor of his late girlfriend, fashion designer L'Wren Scott.

The scholarship will allow one master's degree student per year over a period of three years to at-

tend the elite Central Saint Martins, the London-based college announced this weekend. Scott, who committed suicide last March at age 49, had been close to a former course director at Central Saint Martins, the late Louise Wilson.

Fabio Piras, the current course director of MA Fashion, says in a statement that he was "very grateful to receive this extremely generous scholarship package." The grant covers tuition and some living expenses. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

'Brooklyn Nine-Nine': The making of an American show

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

Stephanie Beatriz was preparing for her second-round audition for "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" when she heard that another Latina actress, Melissa Fumero, had won a role in the Fox sitcom. Beatriz's heart sank.

"I thought, 'That's it. The network is not going to allow there to be two Latinas in one show,'" Beatriz said. "I was so used to, 'There's only room for one.'"

Beatriz was wrong. The "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" cast includes both of the actresses, along with two African-Americans and five whites.

Making sure "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" reflected the melting-pot world it's drawn from was key for Daniel J. Goor and Michael Schur. The veteran writers and producers, whose credits include "Parks and Recreation," were mulling a joint project when they quickly settled on a New York-based police comedy.

"Police deal with people of all types: races, genders, sexualities, which allows for an unbelievable number of stories," Goor said. "And when you look at the NYPD itself, it's an incredibly diverse police force."

Added Schur: "It seemed like the more diverse, interesting-looking group of people you had, the more



In this image released by Fox, Melissa Fumero, left, and Stephanie Beatriz appear in a scene from the comedy series, "Brooklyn Nine-Nine." Beatriz worked extensively in theater and enjoyed the freedom of appearing in a range of "colorblind" stage roles as well as playing specifically Latina characters. Associated Press

fun the show would be." The payoff for "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" so far includes a 2014 Golden Globe best comedy series trophy and solid ratings that earned it a sophomore season.

Diversity also provided more than a wealth of lively material for the show's nine-member writing staff, which includes black, Indian-American and gay writers, along with Goor and Schur, both of whom are white.

"From a practical point, it meant we could open up the casting process really to anyone, which is a

tremendous advantage," Goor said. "We could say to the casting director (Allison Jones), we want to have two male cops and two female cops of this age, and we can audition anyone."

Word of Andy Samberg's decision to leave "Saturday Night Live" came after Goor and Schur had a deal in place with Fox, and they pursued him for the role of freewheeling police Detective Jake Peralta.

Terry Crews, the NFL player turned actor, was hired shortly after to play Sgt. Terry Jeffords. Crews' audition

was so impressive that "we came up with a character named Terry, which was really a bad negotiating tactic," Goor joked.

Andre Braugher was brought on as stern precinct Capt. Ray Holt, a move notable for the multiple Emmy Award-winning actor's shift from drama to comedy. Tough black bosses are a TV staple, often limited to nothing more than barking orders, but Holt's personal life comes into play on "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" and Braugher is far from marginalized.

Other top roles went to Joe Lo Truglio, Dirk Blocker and Joel McKinnon Miller as, respectively, white detectives Boyle, Hitchcock and Scully, and Chelsea Peretti as an administrator and assistant to Holt.

Then came a rare move for a network series, with two of the three major female roles going to Fumero (Detective Amy Santiago) and Beatriz (Detective Rosa Diaz).

"Again, we were searching for the best (people)," Goor said.

Added Schur: "When we told the network of our choices, the reaction was, 'That's good, let's move on.'"

Painting the world of such a police department as "having all white faces would be ridiculous," said Dana Walden, co-chairman and CEO of the Fox Television Group.

Beatriz considers the fact that she and Fumero were cast together to be "incredible," adding that the two "still look at each other sometimes and go, 'This is crazy!'"

The actors not only measure up to their real-life NYPD counterparts, part of a force that's more than half minority officers: They have been recognized by their industry peers with a 2015 Screen Actors Guild Award nomination for best TV comedy ensemble. □



This book cover image released by Minotaur shows "Fear the Darkness," by Becky Masterman.

Associated Press

OLINE H. COGDILL

Associated Press

Relationships require a

'Fear the Darkness' is solid story

certain amount of vulnerability — the willingness to expose yourself emotionally, hoping that happiness is the ultimate goal, but realizing that being hurt comes with it, too.

Becky Masterman's superior series explores how former FBI agent Brigid Quinn, who spent her life chasing criminals and avoiding emotional entanglements, is dealing with a "normal" life since her retirement. In her second novel, "Fear the Darkness," Masterman delves deeper into Quinn's psyche as she

learns how to be a wife, a friend and even a guardian.

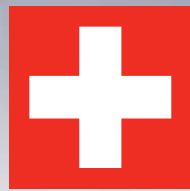
Brigid and her husband, Carlo DiForenza, to whom she has been married for two years, have settled into peaceful domesticity in Tucson, Arizona. Her teenage niece, Gemma-Kate, moves in with them so she can establish in-state residency for the University of Arizona. Although Gemma-Kate had been the caregiver for her mother who recently died from multiple sclerosis, she seems to lack empathy for others.

Meanwhile, Brigid, who now has a private investigative agency, agrees to look into the death of a local teenager. Brigid has just started her investigation when she begins to have chronic nausea and hallucinations. When another death is discovered, Brigid worries that her niece, who is interested in toxicology, may be responsible.

Despite her age, the 59-year-old Brigid hasn't gone soft. She can still defend herself, keeping her skills sharp.

The strong voice that Masterman estab-

lished for Brigid in "Rage Against the Dying" excels in this sequel. Brigid revels in her new life — "... after a long life lived alone except for the company of low-life criminals, I have a husband and a friend. ... This is what normal life is like ... the kind I had fought all those years to preserve for other people." Yet, she worries that the past and what she knows about the nature of evil will always make her guarded. "Fear the Darkness," a tale of the healing power of unconditional love, is a solid police procedural. □



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